

# Nature & You

News and Events from the Missouri Department of Conservation • September/October 2013

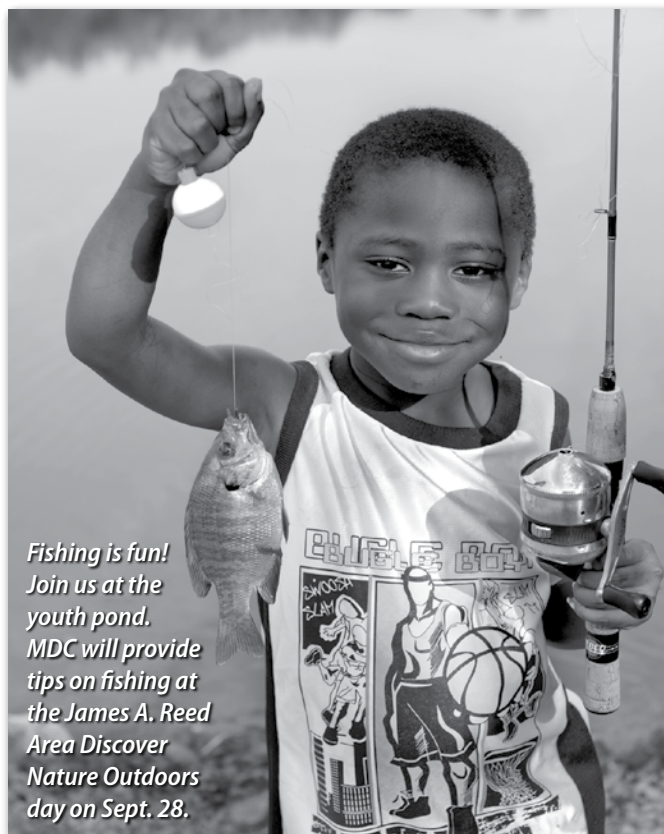


## National Hunting and Fishing Day to celebrate conservation and outdoor fun

**W**ithout decades of support for conservation by people who enjoy the outdoors, we might not be celebrating National Hunting and Fishing Day on Sept. 28. But thanks to conservation, a variety of special activities in the Kansas City area will mark the occasion including the **MDC Discover Nature Family Outdoors Day 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area.**

Why as a nation do we recognize these outside activities? Early in the 1900's many of the game species were low in numbers or in many states on the verge of extinction. With very little regulation or enforcement of game laws, wildlife was exploited and overhunted. Habitat loss, too, caused fish and wildlife populations to plummet.

Hunters, anglers and nature enthusiasts began to recognize that unregulated hunting and fishing affected populations and the future of many species for generations to come. Led by President Theodore Roosevelt, in the early 1900s they began to demand laws and permits to regulate hunting and fishing. Permit sales became a funding source for conservation efforts in states developing modern conservation laws. Populations of game species began to rebound thanks to new protections and a better understanding of habitat needs for fish and wildlife.



*Fishing is fun!  
Join us at the youth pond.  
MDC will provide tips on fishing at the James A. Reed Area Discover Nature Outdoors day on Sept. 28.*

In the 1960s and 1970s, a heightened state of environmental awareness from the American population brought a push for greater regulation to preserve the nation's resources. Hunters and anglers came up with the idea of Outdoor Sportsman's Day. This was a day of recognition for those who had helped with the preservation of resources. It was also a day dedicated to promote hunting, fishing and the outdoors. The idea first arose from a gun shop owner in Pennsylvania in 1970 and it quickly made its way to the floor of the United States Senate by 1971.

On May 2, 1972, President Nixon signed the first proclamation of National Hunting and Fishing Day. The day was to be held on the fourth Saturday of every September. "I urge all citizens to join with outdoor sportsmen in the wise use of

our natural resources and in ensuring proper management for the benefit of future generations," Nixon proclaimed.

National Hunting and Fishing Day is celebrated every September nationally. The observance has helped spark interest in the outdoor sports and an appreciation for the conservation programs that makes those sports possible.

On Sept. 28, please join the Missouri Department of Conservation and our outdoors partners for a variety of activities. You may enjoy free shooting at our staffed shooting

ranges, walk the trails at our nature centers or enjoy a variety of activities offered at James A. Reed Wildlife Memorial Area. These events are a great way for you and your family to gain the knowledge needed to enjoy the great outdoors. It is also a great resource to use for any questions you may have.

National Hunting and Fishing Day online, [www.nhfd.org](http://www.nhfd.org), has great resources for those who are interested in the outdoors but just don't quite know where to start. The website has a list of ways for you to get involved in the sports of hunting, shooting or fishing and the locations to do so. You can also check out the MDC website, [www.mdc.mo.gov](http://www.mdc.mo.gov), for more information on local programs that relate to the sports that interest you.

— Kellie Zurowski, Lake City Range Officer

# Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center

1401 NW Park Road, Blue Springs, MO 64015 • [mdc.mo.gov/node/280](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/280)



Located in Blue Springs, Missouri, one mile north of I-70 and one mile west of MO 7 on Park Road. Six trails, 1,071 wooded acres, two picnic areas, indoor wildlife viewing area, 3,000 gallon native fish and turtle aquarium, hands-on nature exhibits, gift shop, and sales of fishing and hunting permits.

## NATURE CENTER HOURS:

Tuesday–Friday: 7 AM–6 PM

Saturday: 8 AM–5 PM

## AREA AND TRAILS:

Daily: 7 AM–6 PM

Daylight Saving Time: 7 AM–8 PM

Closed Thanksgiving Day, day after Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years

## TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 816-228-3766 to sign up for a program requiring registration on or after the first business day of that month. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy.

## What's for Dinner?

Wednesdays & Saturdays · 3 PM

*Walk-in (all ages)*

Discover what's for dinner at Burr Oak Woods as the captive amphibians, fish and turtles enjoy their feast every Wednesday and Saturday. The snakes are fed every other Friday (Sept. 6 & 20 and Oct. 4 & 18).

## Monarch Tagging

September 7 · Saturday · 10–11 AM or 11–Noon

*Registration required (adults & families with children ages 4+)*

Monarch butterflies are now migrating to their winter home in central Mexico, and we are ready to tag them! Become a scientist for a day by capturing, tagging and releasing these unique butterflies.

## Babes in the Woods:

### Cruisin' a Creek

September 10 · Tuesday · 10 AM–11 AM

*Registration required (babes under 36 months)*

Let us take your little one to a creek! We will take a short hike to Burr Oak Creek to splash and experience this watery world.

## Discover Nature: Family Fishing

September 14 · Saturday · 9–11 AM

*Registration required (families)*

Bring your family out for the last session of family fishing this season. We will teach fishing basics, provide equipment and worms and then let you and your family try your luck. Kids who attend will be entered in a drawing for a new fishing pole and tackle box. Participants ages 16–64 must have a valid fishing permit.

## Conservation Kids Club:

### Creek Walkin'

September 17 · Tuesday · 6:30–8 PM

*Registration required (ages 7–13)*

It's time for a wet and wild adventure at Burr Oak Woods! Come with us and take a walk in Burr Oak Creek to see what animals live there. Streams are a very important part of our forest ecosystem and a great place to explore. See native wildlife, investigate tracks in the mud and have lots of fun!

## Little Acorns:

### How Your Garden Grows

September 18 · Wednesday

10–11 AM or 1–2 PM

*Registration required (ages 3–5)*

Plants and flowers are very important to wildlife and us! We'll learn about some of the beautiful native flowers of Missouri and start our very own Little Acorns garden.

## Home School:

### In Celebration of Prairies

September 18 · Wednesday

10–11:30 AM for ages 6–8, 9–11, 12–18 or 1–2:30 PM for ages 6–8

*Registration required*

Prairies are a habitat full of beauty and life. Join a naturalist to discover this unique place and what makes it such a special place to explore.

## Spectacular Spiders

September 21 · Saturday · 1–2 PM

*Registration required (families)*

There are more than 300 fascinating species of spiders in Missouri! They can be camouflaged, furry or even brightly colored. Join us as we creep into the eight-legged world of spiders. We will learn about them inside then head out on a trail to see who is hanging around.



## Cable Restraint Certification

September 28 · Saturday · 9 AM–Noon

*Registration required (all ages)*

If you are a trapper looking for another tool to help you on the trapping line then you might want to explore cable restraint. Instruction includes general history of cable restraint, rules and regulations, length of season and more. This class is a requirement to trap with the cable restraint technique and certification will appear on your Resident Trapping Permit. This class will fill quickly!

## Rockin' & Readin' Nature Tales

September 28 · Saturday · 11 AM–Noon

October 26 · Saturday · 11 AM–Noon

*Walk-in (ages 2+)*

Join us for a story hour as we lead you on fantastic nature adventures! We will meet butterflies, birds, mammals and all sorts of magnificent creatures. We will cross rivers, discover mysteries within the forest and fly across the prairies. Our imaginations are the only limits.

## I Spy Caterpillars

September 28 · Saturday · 1–2 PM

*No registration required (all ages)*

Why did the woolly bear caterpillar cross the road? To find more yummy leaves of course! It's that time of year to spy caterpillars munching on savory leaves and scurrying across the road. Join us as we take a hike to find colorful caterpillars and identify if they will become moths or butterflies!

**SPECIAL NOTICE:** *There will be a managed Archery Hunt at Burr Oak Woods on October 24–October 30. The area and trails will remain open during the hunt.*

### **The Wild Ones: Gifts from Missouri Fruit Trees**

September 28 · Saturday · 1–3 PM

*Registration required (adults)*

Get wild with Missouri plants. Come out and learn about delicious fruit from Missouri's native trees! Following the program join in on the fun by participating in a native wild edible plant exchange.



### **Babes in the Woods: Back Door to Bethany Falls**

October 8 · Tuesday · 10–11 AM

*Registration required (babes under 36 months)*

Don't miss out on the fun! Hike out with your little one to one of the most popular trails in Kansas City. We will meet at the nature center. Don't forget your camera!

### **Little Acorns: Creepy Crawly Spiders**

October 9 · Wednesday · 10–11 AM

October 26 · Saturday · 10–11 AM

*Registration required (ages 3–5)*

Does the sight of eight creeping legs make you squirm? Learn about these helpful critters, and take a hike to see if you can erase your fears and get a glimpse of amazing arachnids at work.

## **Special photo display of "Nature's Gifts" by Gail Rowley**

**G**ail Rowley, nature enthusiast and owner of Ozark Stream Photography, will have photographs on display at Burr Oak Woods during October. Her photographs focus on native plants, birds, animals, streams and habitats. Gail's exhibit will also include some surprising close-ups.

If you would like to learn more about Gail's photography, join her during a meet and greet at Burr Oak Woods 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Oct. 26.

### **Home School: Going Batty!**

October 9 · Wednesday

10–11:30 AM for ages 6–8, 9–11, 12–18 or

1–2:30 PM for ages 6–8

*Registration required*

They come out at night, flying, swooping and munching on mosquitoes. They're bats! They may seem scary or creepy to some people. But bats are an important part of our environment and they are pretty cool when you get to know them. Join us as we uncover the mysterious world of Missouri's only flying mammals.

### **Introduction to Deer Hunting**

October 12 · Saturday · 10 AM–3 PM

*Registration required (ages 11+ with an adult)*

Have you thought about hunting but just don't know where to start? Deer hunting is a challenging yet exciting tradition here in Missouri. Come out to Burr Oak Woods and learn the basics of pursuing white-tailed deer. We will cover everything from scouting locations to hunting methods and processing your own deer and more.

### **Conservation Kids Club: Kids vs. Wild**

October 15 · Tuesday · 6:30–8 PM

*Registration required (ages 7–13)*

Can you survive in the wilderness? Join us as



we explore the skills it takes to survive if you are lost in the forest. We will learn the basics of food, water, fire and shelter. Then we'll try out some of the skills we learn!

### **Let's Go Batty!**

October 19 · Saturday · 1–2 PM

*No registration required (all ages)*

Do you have the facts straight on bats? Do they cause you to feel unsettled or do you marvel at their incredible adaptations? Bats are creatures that invoke strong emotions. Develop a deeper understanding and appreciation of the role of bats in nature and how humans have impacted them.

SPECIAL EVENT

**Into the  
Land of  
Oz!**



**BURR OAK WOODS • SAT. OCT. 5**

*"A niche is a role each plant or animal must play. It's the job that they do and the home where they stay. It's time that I, too, went back to my niche. I'm sure I'll get there, this time, without a glitch."*

**A FREE SPECIAL EVENT FOR ALL AGES.**

Dorothy learns many valuable lessons about niches as she searches for Toto.

You and your family are invited to help Dorothy in her quest! Remember, there is magic in the night! You never know who you are going to meet along the trail! Lions, and Tigers, and Bears, oh my!

**MATINEE 2:00–4:00 PM**

**EVENING PERFORMANCE 6:00–9:00 PM**  
(HIKES DEPARTING EVERY 15 MINUTES)

### **The Wild Ones: Soup and Fable**

October 24 · Thursday · 6–8 PM

*Registration required (adults)*

The autumn leaves and the boundless stars will be our canopy. Don't miss out on this unforgettable experience as we savor the bounty of a wild autumn harvest, share warm and wild native teas, and listen to stories from award winning storyteller Molly Postlewait around the campfire.

### **Valuable Vultures**

October 26 · Saturday · 1–2 PM

*No registration required (all ages)*

Vultures may not be the type of birds you want to see at your bird feeders but they play a very important role in nature. Learn about these vital birds as Susan Bray from Lakeside Nature Center visits us and brings along a special guest, a live turkey vulture!

### **Native Flower Clay Bead Jewelry**

November 2 · Saturday · Noon–2 PM

*Registration required beginning October 1*

*(adults only)* Create a unique wearable work of art with acrylic "clay" as a set of earrings, a necklace pendant, hair clip or a brooch. Learn about some of our beautiful native plants as you craft your jewelry from basic flower shapes such as flowering dogwood, rose mallow, sunflower, downy gentian and more.



# Lake City Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

28505 E. Truman Road, Landahl Park, Buckner, MO 64016 • [mdc.mo.gov/node/282](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/282)



Located on 60 acres of forests and fields near Blue Springs, Missouri, six miles north of I-70 on MO 7 and two miles east of MO 7 on Truman Road in Landahl Park. Facilities include an outdoor education center, archery, pistol, rifle and shotgun ranges, including skeet and trap.

## HOURS:

### May 1–September 15

Wednesday–Sunday: Noon–6 PM

### September 16–April 30

Wednesday–Sunday: Noon–4:30 PM

Closed Monday and Tuesday

and all state holidays.

**FACILITIES AND FEES:** Available for individual or group use. Call for information and possible restrictions.

- Rifle/pistol range: \$3 booth per hour
- Trap/Skeet: \$3 per round per person
- Archery range: \$3 per person per hour

## TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 816-249-3194 to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy.

## Introduction to Skeet Shooting

September 8 · Sunday · 9–11:30 AM

*Registration required* (ages 12+)

Are you tired of trap shooting and looking for an exciting sport? Why not try skeet shooting? Skeet shooting is a great way to improve your basic shotgun skills and improve your hit ratio on all types of winged game. You may even pick up a new sport at the same time.

## Basic Shotgun

September 12 · Thursday · 6–8:30 PM

*Registration required* (ages 12+)

Introduction to shotgun shooting must begin with knowledge of the equipment. Knowing your shotgun is the first step to knowing how to shoot. This course is to help give the student a basic understanding of types of shotguns, actions, shot shells and follow through. Range time is included in the class.

## Effective Wing Shooting

September 20 · Friday · 6–9:30 PM AND

September 21 · Saturday · 8–11:30 AM

*Registration required* (ages 12+)

Would you like to improve your wing shooting skills using non-toxic shot? Join us in learning the proper way to select the best ammunition and choke combination for different migratory and upland game bird hunting. We will discuss the latest technology on non-toxic shotgun ammunition, properly patterning your shotgun and how to judge distance.

## Basic Handgun

September 21 · Saturday · 8–11:30 AM

*Registration required* (ages 18+)

This is an introductory class for people who have little or no experience in handling and shooting a handgun. Topics that will be covered include safety in the home, types of handguns, different parts of the handgun, variety of calibers, ammunition and marksmanship. Class includes range time.

## Cable Restraint Certification

October 3 · Thursday · 6–9:30 PM

*Registration required* (all ages)

If you are a trapper looking for another tool to help you on the trapping line; then you might want to explore Cable Restraint. Course instructions include general history of cable restraint, rules and regulations, length of season and more. This class is a requirement to trap with the cable restraint technique. Certification will appear on your Resident Trapping Permit after a successful completion of the course. This class fills up very quickly. Call and sign up to reserve a seat for the course now.

## Women's Firearm Safety– Phase II

October 5 · Saturday · 8–11:30 AM

*Registration required* (women ages 18+)

Pre-requisite Phase–I: Let's learn more about handguns. This course is designed for women who are interested in gaining more



information about firearms. Topics discussed include storage of

firearms, different types of handguns and calibers. Build your marksmanship skills with more range time and how to clean your firearm.

## Field to Freezer

October 10 · Thursday · 6–9:30 PM

*Registration required* (all ages)

What do you do after you have harvested your deer? This course will demonstrate how to properly field dress, skin and quarter a deer. For those of you who have a big buck to take to the taxidermist, we can show you the proper procedures in preserving that trophy. After you have quartered your deer, you will learn how to properly cut the deer up into choice cuts for your freezer.

## Introduction to Skeet Shooting

October 12 · Saturday · 9–11:30 AM

*Registration required* (ages 12+)

Are you tired of trap shooting and looking for an exciting sport? Why not try skeet shooting? Skeet shooting is a great way to improve your basic shotgun skills and improve your hit ratio on all types of winged game. You may even pick up a new sport at the same time.

## Family Trap Shooting

October 26 · Saturday · 9–11:30 AM

*Registration required* (ages 12+)

Trap shooting is a fun shooting sport to experience. This course will cover basic firearm safety, different actions on shotguns, proper shot size, proper firearm fit and shot follow through. Trap shooting is a good way for an upland game hunter to improve their shotgun skills.

# Parma Woods Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

15900 NW River Road, PO Box 14024, Parkville, MO 64152 • [mdc.mo.gov/node/283](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/283)

A bead of sweat ran down my face as a bothersome mosquito buzzed near my ear in such a way that it seemed to echo inside of my head. In the calm, black air of zero-dark-thirty I found myself nestled alongside friends and family into a patch of sunflowers planted for wildlife's benefit. A steaming hot cup of coffee held in hand provided an awakening to the day.

Sept. 1 may not be a great time to be outside with average high temperatures of 90-plus degrees and humidity like a

sauna. I disagree. For me it marks an annual tradition. The opening day for dove hunting also marks the impending arrival of autumn and the various hunting

**And  
so it  
begins  
again...**

seasons that begin in the fall.

Doves begin to swoop over the sunflowers, though it's still too dark to shoot. Like miniature fighter jets they arrive in swarms. After a few more minutes of intense anticipation, it happens. The first shotgun blast rings off in the distance signaling the start of what will soon become pure pandemonium. Shots keep coming as if a battle has just begun and shouts of joy ring out around the field as folks celebrate their victories.

I just sit there in awe and smile because I am aware of the great times to be had in the coming weeks. The dove hunting opener is a beginning for me. Many more opening days spent afield with good friends and family will follow. I encourage you to get afield this autumn as well and invite someone new along. If you're new to the outdoors or just want more information, check out our full line of hunting-related classes offered this fall. The classes are geared towards providing the knowledge base needed to safely enjoy the outdoors. For a full listing, check out [www.mdc.mo.gov/node/283](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/node/283)

—Nathan Woodland, Parma Woods Range

## Upland hunters sharpen their wing shooting at non-toxic shot workshops

Many hunters in the shotgun shooting sports today are turning to non-toxic shot for all game, not just waterfowl. Non-toxic shot is environmentally friendly and effective for hunting.

Waterfowl hunters have effectively used non-toxic steel shot in wetland areas since the 1980s. The Effective Wing Shooting workshop developed by the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) staff is designed to teach upland bird and waterfowl hunters alike how to improve success with non-toxic shot. The workshop will help you improve shooting skills, choose the appropriate shot and choke combinations for your firearm, pattern your shotgun using non-toxic shot and better estimate range.

Several workshops are offered in the Kansas City area in September and October. For more information on Effective Wing Shooting workshops: [www.mdc.mo.gov/hunting-trapping/birds/upland-game-birds/effective-wingshooting-workshops](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/hunting-trapping/birds/upland-game-birds/effective-wingshooting-workshops).

— Steve Elliott, Lake City Range Supervisor

## Hunting the White-tailed Deer

September 8 · Sunday · 9 AM–4 PM  
*Registration required* (ages 11+; ages 11–17 must be accompanied by an adult)

Have you ever considered giving deer hunting a try? Have you been hunting but struggle finding success? Join our crew of experienced deer hunters as we provide the information you need to consistently locate deer. This class will cover deer biology, hunting equipment, hunting techniques and more to make you a better deer hunter.

## Introduction to Firearms

October 11 · Friday · 6–9 PM AND  
October 12 · Saturday · 8:30–11:30 AM  
*Registration required* (ages 11+; ages 11–17 must be accompanied by an adult)

Staying safe around firearms requires the appropriate level of knowledge and skill combined with a positive attitude. Join our certified firearms instructors as we explore the fun of shooting in a safe and controlled environment. This course will cover all major types of firearms and will include target shooting on the range.



Located in Platte County, Missouri. Go west of downtown Parkville on Route FF to River Road, then west 3 miles to the entrance located just west of I-435. Facilities are available for individual or group use and include a rifle/pistol range, shotgun patterning range, and archery range.

## HOURS:

**May 1–September 30**

Monday and Tuesday: 2 PM–8 PM

Friday–Sunday: 10 AM–4 PM

**October 1–April 30**

Friday–Tuesday: Noon–4:30 PM

Closed Wednesday and Thursday and all state holidays.

## FACILITIES AND FEES:

- Rifle/pistol range: \$3 booth per hour
- Archery range: \$3 per person per hour

## TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 816-891-9941 to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list.

## Introduction to Trapping Furbearers

October 19 · Saturday · 9 AM–4 PM

*Registration required* (all ages)

Research has found that spending quality time with your family in the outdoors is important. Trapping furbearers is a good way to do that. Though there is some value to furbearer pelts, don't think you're going to get rich. You will be lucky to break even. The real benefit is you will be helping to conserve the wildlife you pursue. To learn more about trapping attend this day long workshop provided by our experienced staff.

# Anita B. Gorman **Discovery Center**

4750 Troost Avenue, Kansas City, MO 64110 • [mdc.mo.gov/discoverycenter](http://mdc.mo.gov/discoverycenter)



Located in Kansas City, Missouri, just east of the Plaza near 47th and Troost. Six hands-on workshops explore Missouri's fish, forest and wildlife with a Lewis and Clark theme. Discovery Center is a showcase for environmental architecture with four acres of native landscaping. Buy books and hunting/fishing permits at the gift shop.

## **HOURS:**

Monday–Friday: 8 AM–5 PM  
1st and 3rd Tuesdays: 8 AM–9 PM  
1st and 3rd Saturdays: 9 AM–4 PM  
Closed all state holidays.

## **TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:**

Programs are free. Call 816-759-7300 to sign up for a program requiring registration.

## **Scout Program**

September 3 · Tuesday · Evening

October 1 · Tuesday · Evening

*Registration required* (scouts)

Scout leaders, are you lacking expertise or equipment to complete conservation badges? Bring your troop to Discovery Center. Our education specialists will provide a program helping your Scouts with rank achievement. All Missouri Scout groups of 10-24 participants are welcome to schedule a free program. Please contact Wendy

Parrett at (816) 759-7305 ext. 1141 or **Wendy. Parrett@mdc.mo.gov** to schedule an evening program on the first Tuesday evening of the month.



## **Hunting & Fishing Celebration**

September 7 · Saturday · 10 AM–2:30 PM

*Walk-in* (all ages)

Without the labor of hunters and anglers, many common species of wildlife would be extinct. Join us as we celebrate their efforts in conservation of our fish, forest and wildlife. Practice your aim on our pellet range or utilize the primitive hunting tool, the atlatl. We will also discuss where you can utilize these skills in Missouri.

## **Nature Nuts Storytime**

September 7 · Saturday · 10 AM–11 AM

OR 1 PM–2 PM

September 21 · Saturday · 10 AM–11 AM

OR 1 PM–2 PM

*Walk-in* (ages 3–8; all welcome)

Join volunteer naturalists for a fantastic journey through forests, streams and other magical places as they read selected books. Children will participate in a hands-on nature activity.

## **In the News!**

### **Greater Prairie Chicken**

September 17 · Tuesday · 6:30 PM

Reception; 7 PM Program

*No registration required*

(adults; ages 14+ are welcome to attend with an adult participant)

Missouri had many hundreds of thousands of prairie chickens in presettlement time. Now there are only 300 to 500 prairie chickens left, mainly due to habitat loss.



In an effort to ensure the prairie chicken boom is not lost in MDC has just completed a five year project where birds were captured in Kansas and relocated

to appropriate habitat in Missouri. Join us as Max Alleger, MDC grassland bird coordinator, relates the story of this bird and our conservation efforts to ensure we never lose this species of concern. A reception with light hors d'oeuvres will start at 6:30 p.m. followed by the presentation at 7 p.m.



*Calling all homeschoolers! Join us for a special day exploring the wonders of a local stream.*

## **Homeschool Day on the River**

September 18 · Wednesday · 10 AM–1 PM

*Walk-in* (homeschool students ages 8+)

It's been a long, hot summer; let's spend a cool day on the river! Join us for a special day exploring the wonders of a local stream. We will try our luck at bank-fishing, dip-netting for aquatic invertebrates and hiking the floodplain forest. We'll wrap it all up with lunch on the gravel bar, we'll provide hotdogs and s'mores, you provide your own sides. Bring your old shoes, bug spray/sunscreen and a water bottle... the rest will be provided. Call Discovery Center at (816) 759-7300 for directions and a backup rain plan option.

## **Monarch Mania Special Event**

September 21 · Saturday · 10 AM–2:30 PM

*Walk-in* (all ages)

The monarch butterfly is without a doubt one of the most remarkable insects we have the opportunity to enjoy in Missouri. Discover the majesty of this butterfly through various hands-on activities that will leave you in a state of "Monarch Mania." This program will help you learn about migration, metamorphosis and conservation efforts for this amazing butterfly. Participants will even have the opportunity to tag and release a monarch.

## **Face your Fear Spooktacular**

October 5 · Saturday · 10 AM–2:30 PM

*Walk-in* (all ages)

Do creepy crawlies make your skin crawl? Many people are afraid of something in nature. Today is a day to overcome some of those fears. Participate in fun games and interact with some living creatures that will help you understand and feel more comfortable with our natural neighbors. Meet and learn about some of nature's most misunderstood creatures.



# Anita B. Gorman **Discovery Center**

4750 Troost Avenue, Kansas City, MO 64110 • [mdc.mo.gov/discoverycenter](http://mdc.mo.gov/discoverycenter)

## **Missouri Hunter Education Skills Session**

October 5 • Saturday • 9 AM–1 PM

*Registration required (ages 11+)*

This skills session is the second half of the hunter education certification for those who have completed one of the following: the online course option, the self-paced manual option or through attending a classroom session. Attendees will demonstrate proper firearm safety through hands on skills and take an exam at the end. Attendees must provide a qualifier certificate or student manual with all review questions answered in order to complete the skills session.

Registration and more information can be found at: <http://www.register-ed.com/programs/missouri>

## **Nature Nuts Storytime**

October 5 • Saturday • 10 AM–11 AM OR 1 PM–2 PM *Walk-in* (ages 3–8; all welcome)

Join volunteer naturalists for a fantastic journey through forests, streams and other magical places as they read selected books. Children will participate in a hands-on nature activity.

## **In the News!**

### **Emerald Ash Borer in Missouri**

October 15 • Tuesday • 6:30 PM

Reception; 7 PM Program

*No registration required*

(adults; ages 14+ are welcome to attend with an adult participant)

Since its arrival in Missouri in 2008, the emerald ash borer (EAB) poses a serious threat to our ash trees. Join us at Discovery Center where Urban Forester Wendy Sangster will discuss the history and current status of EAB in the US and Missouri. Wendy will discuss the emerald ash borer, its effects on ash trees, methods to reduce the spread of EAB and management options. A reception with light hors d'oeuvres will start at 6:30 p.m. followed by the presentation at 7 p.m.

## **Special Notice:**

### **Discovery Center Closed**

October 19 • Saturday

Discovery Center is closed Saturday, Oct. 19 due to the Kansas City Marathon route along 47<sup>th</sup> Street and Troost Avenue. Gardens and trails will still be open during daylight hours.

## **nature & art**

### **Creepy but Cool photo exhibit opening reception**

**M**issouri is home to many plants and animals that are creepy, which is why they are also fascinating. The Osage Trail Chapter of the Missouri Master Naturalists took their cameras to the forests, fields and backyards of Missouri to showcase the unloved, unwanted and under appreciated plants and animals. The Creepy but Cool photo exhibit will be on display at the Anita B. Gorman Discovery Center through October. You can meet the photographers and learn more about the photos at the opening reception for the exhibit 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 6, at the Discovery Center.

## **SCOUT DISCOVERY DAY**

SATURDAY / NOVEMBER 2

10:00 AM–2:30 PM / Walk-in (all ages)

Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Brownies, Cadets, Cub Scouts and Webelos join us for a day of hands-on activities designed for fun and rank achievement. We'll have stations and exhibits set-up to provide opportunities to help



meet the skill and knowledge requirements for assorted conservation related badges focused on outdoor skills and nature. Explore the life of animals

and habitats that call Missouri home.

Try your hand at new skills including shooting pellet guns, knot tying, tree identification, compass, fire starting and more. Both individual Scouts and troops are welcome. Don't miss out on this day created especially for Scouts!



**I**magine weighing less than one gram and having to fly 3,000 miles to survive. Each fall the monarch butterflies migrate south to the same mountain areas in Mexico. They roost in the Enamel fir forests for the winter. The forests provide an ideal microclimate for the butterflies.

Many questions remain unanswered about this amazing migration. How does weather affect their migration? Do they use similar flight patterns each year? Tagging monarchs is one way to help scientists find answers. **The Discovery Center will host Monarch Mania from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Sept 21.** This event will help participants learn about the monarch butterfly through various hands-on activities. We will talk about how monarchs go through metamorphosis from caterpillar to butterfly and what we do know about their migration. Participants will also have the opportunity to tag and release a monarch butterfly.

— Steve Jacobsen, Education Specialist

## **HOLIDAY CLOSURES**

**Discovery Center, Parma Woods and Lake City Shooting Ranges will be closed**

**Labor Day, September 2  
Columbus Day, October 14**

# Celebrate National Hunting & Fishing Day

*The following is a list of local activities occurring in celebration of National Hunting and Fishing Day*

## MDC Discover Nature Family Outdoors Day

JAMES A. REED MEMORIAL WILDLIFE AREA

September 28 • 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

MDC will join with Ducks Unlimited to celebrate National Hunting and Fishing Day. Target shoot with pellet rifles, archery, cowboy action guns and shotguns. Learn how to throw the atlatl used by prehistoric cultures for hunting.

Activities will also include a kids fishing pond, duck wing identification, simulated beaver hut, duck and upland dog demos and much more! There will be concessions available and free coloring tables for the kids. Also, each child attending will receive a free GreenWing Ducks Unlimited membership and goody bag. Come have some outdoor fun!



## Cable Restraint Certification

BURR OAK WOODS CONSERVATION NATURE CENTER

September 28 • 9 a.m. to 12 noon

Registration is ongoing now through class date. MUST CALL TO REGISTER. Learn the history of cable restraints, rules and regulations, length of season and more. This class is a requirement to trap with the cable restraint technique and certification will appear on your resident trapping permit. The class will fill quickly!

## Introduction to Deer Hunting

BURR OAK WOODS CONSERVATION NATURE CENTER

October 12 • 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Registration begins Oct. 1 MUST CALL TO REGISTER

Have you thought about hunting but don't know where to start? Deer hunting is a challenging yet exciting tradition in Missouri. Come out to Burr Oak Woods and learn the basics of pursuing white-tailed deer. We will cover scouting, hunting methods, processing your own deer and more!

## Hunting and Fishing Celebration

ANITA B. GORMAN CONSERVATION DISCOVERY CENTER

September 7 • 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

*Walk-in* (all ages) Join us as we celebrate sportsmen and their efforts in the conservation of our fish, forests and wildlife. Practice your aim on our pellet range or utilize the primitive hunting tool, the atlatl. We will also discuss where you can utilize these skills in Missouri.

## Shooting Range Specials

LAKE CITY SHOOTING RANGE AND OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTER

September 28 • 12 noon to 4:30 p.m.

Come join us for a day of shooting, first hour free!

PARMA WOODS SHOOTING RANGE AND OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTER

September 28 • 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Come join us for a day of shooting, first hour free!

## Missouri creatures making the news

*What's the real story about the greater prairie chicken, emerald ash borer and hellbender salamander?*

A plant, animal or insect can concern scientists and conservation land managers because of its presence or absence. We have both cases in Missouri. The Gorman Discovery Center's next adult series focuses on two endangered species and one invasive species that have been in the news recently. Missouri Department of Conservation professionals will share their experiences working with these species.

On **Tuesday, Sept. 17, Max Alleger**, grassland bird coordinator, will speak on efforts to help the greater prairie chicken recover from endangered species status

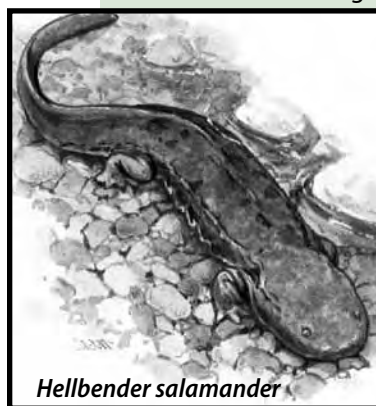
in Missouri. This includes trapping prairie chickens in Kansas and releasing them in Missouri, managing habitats and tracking nesting success with modern technology.

On **Tuesday,**

**Oct. 15, Wendy Sangster**, urban forester, will discuss the emerald ash borer. This invasive insect has been found in the Kansas City area. The borer could kill thousands of ash trees in the coming years. Sangster will talk about what preventive tree treatments are available and suggest alternative trees for future landscape plantings.

On **Tuesday, Nov. 19, Jeff Briggler**, resource scientist, will speak on his award-winning efforts to help Missouri's endangered hellbender salamander. Briggler studies the salamanders in their Ozark stream habitat and in research labs.

All presentations will be held at the Anita B. Gorman Discovery Center, 4750 Troost Ave. A reception with light hors d'oeuvres will begin at 6:30 p.m. and the presentation starts at 7:00 p.m.. Come learn why these creatures are important to Missouri.



*Hellbender salamander*